Probe into Godhra incident

*456. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has set up an inquiry to probe the Godhra incident which had resulted in killing of hundreds of innocent persons in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the Judge who would head that Inquiry Committee; and

(c) what are the terms of reference of the said Committee and by when its report is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Gujarat Government, by a Notification dated 6.3.2002, has appointed a Commission of Inquiry consisting of Mr. Justice K.G. Shah, retired Judge of the High Court of Gujarat, under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, to inquire into the recent communal riots in Gujarat in the wake of Godhra train carnage on 27.2.2002. The terms of reference of the said Commission are as under:—

1. To inquire into:-

   (a) The facts, circumstances and course of events that led to setting on fire some coaches of the Sabarmati Express train on 27.2.2002 near Godhra railway station;

   (b) the facts, circumstances and course of events of the subsequent incidents of violence in the State in the aftermath of the Godhra incident; and

   (c) the adequacy of administrative measures taken to prevent and deal with the disturbances in Godhra and subsequent disturbances in the State.

2. To ascertain as to whether the incident at Godhra was pre-planned and whether information was available with the agencies which could have been used to prevent the incident.

3. To recommend suitable measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

According to the said Notification the Commission should complete its inquiry and submit its report to the State Government within three months.